

May 11, 1955

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. H. S. Craig
FROM: Roy P. McNair
SUBJECT: Co-existence

The Soviets through rare propaganda skill have succeeded in manipulating words and slogans in a manner as to change their meaning. "Freedom" and "democracy" were early victims of this technique; now peace has been divested of its idealism and its humanitarianism. Just as "People's Democracy" means a Communist dictatorship, so is the term "Co-existence" interpreted to mean acquiescence to Soviet policies.

The expression "Co-existence" first came into existence as official dogma when the 7th Comintern Congress in 1935 used the term to describe the "united front" policy for Communist parties abroad. The purpose of this policy was for Communist parties to coalesce with other political groups until such time as the threat of Fascism was eased. The "united front" policy ultimately influenced the formation of a Popular Front government in France, which gained acceptance as a new social democracy in various capitals of the world, and created the illusion that Soviet actions heralded a change in basic policy.

The 19th or last Communist Party Congress in the Soviet Union indicated no abandonment of the basic Stalinist doctrine of divide and conquer. Therefore, in the present situation, "Co-existence" as proposed by the Soviets, is probably a tactical maneuver to gain time for the adjustment or easement of certain economic problems in both the Soviet Union and China.

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